THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) The unauthorised constructions, encroachments and felling of trees in the prohibited and regulated area around the protected monument is violating the Master plan of the temple prepared by the State Govt. and adversely affecting the environs of the monument.

(b) The removal of the unauthorised construction is within the purview of the State Government who are seized of the matter.

Tax on Sports Goods

1492. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the sports goods industry has represented for removal of import duties on raw material and for abolition of sales tax on sports goods, to give a boost to the industry; and

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction in respect thereto?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) With a view to bring about reduction of the import duty on raw materials and abolition of sales tax on sports goods the Government has taken up the matter with the Ministry of Commerce and the State Governments respectively. With regard to reduction of import duty on raw material like cork etc. the Ministry of Commerce has stated that in the union Budget 1997-98 various concessions have been given to the sports goods industry by way of reduction of import duty on PU leather from 40% to 30%, reduction of import duty on Melton Cloth (falling under Chapter 51 under sub-heading 51.06 to 51.13) from 50% to 40% abolition of Customs duty on Log Wood and Cork, concessional Customs Duty of 10% or the basic on nylon gut, willow clefts, ashwood or beachwood and cork bottoms etc. on the abolition of sales tax, the State Govt. of Gujarat has stated that it is exempted Sports Goods from Sales Tax under the Sales Tax Act, 1969. The Government of Andaman and Nicobar have stated that no Sales Tax has been levied in the Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar on Sports Goods. The Government of Maharashtra, Pondicherry, Sikkim and Tamil Nadu have however not agreed to abolish the sales tax fully. The matter is being persued with the remaining State Governments/UTs.

CAT Directive for Employment to a Boxing Champion in the Railways

1493. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that a former Bengal Champion had represented the Eastern Railway in the 43rd Inter Railway Boxing Championship in 1987 on the assurance of getting employment in the Railways;

(b) whether Government are aware that the Central Administrative Tribunal, in its Judgement in 1993, had directed the Eastern Railway to consider the former Bengal Champion's application immediately and grant him suitable job from the Sports quota; and

(c) if so, the action of Government regarding long delay to give him appointment, inspite of the Judgement of CAT?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) One non-Railway Boxer, Shri Biswajit Paul, was allowed to participate on behalf of Eastern Railway in the Inter-Railway Boxing Championship at Chennai in 1987-88 only to adjudge his performance.

(b) and (c) Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT) Calcutta in their orders